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Pretreatment of flocked substrate for diverse printing processes lightly applies and dries polymer resin from suspension to prevent flock detachment, interference in printing machines and non-vibrant color printing

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Abstract (Basic): EP 989227 A2

NOVELTY - Flocks, already attached to the substrate, are lightly impregnated with polymer resin in aqueous emulsion in a bath. The material, thus impregnated, is dried. The resin attaches any loose flock fibers to the substrate. It limits ink penetration into the flock, in any subsequent printing stage.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION - An INDEPENDENT CLAIM is included for the product of such manufacture. Preferred features: The resin content in the aqueous bath is preferably 2-12 dry wt%, especially 6-7%.

Impregnation density is 100-150 g/m squared. The resin is deposited in a moist environment on the flocked side only. Processes typically involve moistening, coating or atomization. Following impregnation, excess resin solution is wrung out using pressure rollers, which also even-out the deposit.

USE - A pretreatment for flocks applied to a substrate of e.g. paper or textile, especially before printing with e.g. patterns.

Product uses abound, e.g. in packing, decoration, clothing and wall coverings.

ADVANTAGE - This process solves major problems affecting contact printing systems. These include flock fiber detachment, and accumulation in printing machines from which poor printing results. Ink absorption into fibers detracts from color strength and visual impression. The problems are overcome in the new process, without detracting from the feel of the material. A range of printing systems may be employed following pretreatment.

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Title Terms: PRETREATMENT; FLOCK; SUBSTRATE; DIVERSE; PRINT; PROCESS; LIGHT; APPLY; DRY; POLYMER; RESIN; SUSPENSION; PREVENT; FLOCK; DETACH; INTERFERENCE; PRINT; MACHINE; NON; VIBRATION; PRINT

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